Power projects with foreign investment in the Karnataka

2740. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem in the Hindustan Times dated 22nd February, 1994 that five major power projects involving overseas private investment are to be set up in Karnataka and if so whether the Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with the participating overseas companies;

(b) what is the status of the proposed 1000 MW thermal project at Mangalore to be set up with the assistance from Cogentrix of USA;

(c) whether any hydel project in Almatti-Narayanpur-Thermankal in Karnataka is under consideration and if so the generation capacity of the proposed project; and

(d) whether Government propose to ensure clearance of the proposals, both at the ministry level and at the Central Electricity Authority level, so that there are no cost overruns due to delayed implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Government of Karnataka and M/s Cogentrix Inc., USA on 30.7.1992. The promoters are pursuing various clearances/inputs required for the project.

(c) Yes Sir. The proposed capacity is 600 MW in Phase-I and 360 MW in Phase-II.

(d) Every effort is made to ensure expeditious clearance of Private Power Projects.

Precautionary measures by NREB to prevent grid collapse

2741. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Northern Region Electricity Board (NREB) has evolved any precautionary measures to prevent the Grid collapse and blackouts in the northern region of the kind that took place during last summer;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether NREB has worked out any bilateral arrangements with other Electricity Boards; if so, what are the details hereof;

(d) what has been the peak demand of northern region as compared to the current generating capacity in the region;

(e) what measures Government propose to take to meet the shortage during the coming summer months;

(f) what is the extent of theft of electricity in NREB; the details of loss suffered during each of the last three years; and

(g) what steps Government have taken to check the theft of electricity in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Adequate redundancy needs to be built into the transmssion network to safeguard against probable contingencies. This is being attempted, consistent with resource availability. At present, transmission planning is restricted to cater to single contingency. In addition, automatic underfrequency load shedding/islanding schemes have become operational and are being promoted.

(c) NREB have bilateral arrangement with WREB to assist each other depending on system conditions through HVDC back link between Singrauli (Northern Region) and Vindyachal (Western Region). The link can transfer power to the extent of 500 MW in either direction.

(d) The current peak availability of Northern Region is 12793 MW against the peak demand of 15860 MW resulting in a shortage of 3067 MW (19.3 percent).

(e) To maximise the energy availability during summer, proper maintenance scheduling of generating units, transmision lines and equipments have been planned by NREB. Further, with the expected commissioning of the following units, the power availability is likely to increase during the ensuing summer months.

Chamera HPS	3 x 180 MW
Salal HPS (ST. II) Unit V	115 MW
NCR TPP. Unit IV	210 MW
Dadri GPP ST	2 x 146.5 MW
DESU W.H.R. Unit I	34 MW

(f) The transmission and distribution losses (including due to theft and pilferage) suffered by States in Northern Region during the year 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 were 22.89 per cent, 22.83 per cent and 20.8 per cent respectively. The power utilities have not been compiling separate data for losses due to theft and pilferage.

(g) Comprehensive guidelines have been issued by CEA to the Power Utilities for reducing Transmission and Distribution losses. These include, inter alia, measures for reducing power theft viz-a-viz installing tamper-proof meter boxes, intensifying surprise raids and launching prosecutions against the persons found indulging in theft of energy. The theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence from August, 1986 under the provisions of section 39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910. An Incentive Scheme was also introduced by the Government of India among the State Electricity board Electricity Departments etc. from the year 1987 for bringing about reduction in the transmission and distribution losses.

Power generation during VIII Five Year Plan

2742. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country will be able to meet electricity-requirement/demand in the remaining years of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the target set for power-generation and demand during the Eighth Five Year Plan and for 1994-95 togetherwith the power generation target achieved so far;

(c) if not the reasons therefor;

(d) what was the per capita availability of eletricity during the last year and share of foreign investment in it : and

(e) what is the percentage loss of electricity through various means like transmission and distribution losses, theft etc.?